

Country: USSR

25X1A2g

Subject: Alleged Production at the Yoshkar-Ola Atomic Weapon Plant of 'Izotokomulators' to spray Radioactive Dust.

Place Acquired:

25X1A6a

Date Acquired:

Date of Info: March 1953

25X1X6

Source:

1. "New types of atomic weapons have been produced on a large scale since March 1953 at the secret atomic weapon plant in the town of Yoshkar-Ola, in the Mari Autonomous SSR, about 80 miles northwest of Kazan on the Volga River. This information is dated late March 1953.
2. "These new weapons are apparatus for spraying under pressure, lethal radioactive dust. One such apparatus, called by the informant (who is not an atomic expert but an electromechanic) an 'Izotokomulator', is said to be sufficient to contaminate an area of 3,000-4,000 square meters. This apparatus is about the size of a typewriter. It is approximately 40 cm long, 30 cm wide and 15 cm high. It contains well isolated containers of radioactive metal dust, connected with other containers with compressed air. There is also a mechanism inside, which at a fixed time opens the valves of containers with compressed air and releases radioactive dust. [Collector's note: No attempt has been made to change the above wording or punctuation lest the meaning be changed.]
3. "Tests were made with these apparatus between 18 and 22 March in a specially built concrete bunker at the testing grounds of the Yoshkar-Ola plant. The bunker was about 20 m long and 10 m wide. It had two stories, each three m high. One 'Izotokomulator' completely filled the whole bunker with metallic dust (not radioactive, for the purpose of this test) within three or four minutes. After the test the apparatus was immediately taken away by Soviet officers, who wore special coats made of some unknown material, protective masks and boots. The dust appeared to have penetrated the walls one to three millimeters.
4. "According to unconfirmed information, the same Yoshkar-Ola plant also produces 'Liliput' types of these apparatus. They are of such a small size that they can be easily hidden in briefcases or even in pockets. They can be most useful for acts of sabotage and diversion, e.g. for the contamination of planes, ships, buildings and other closed areas."

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